

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1, 14, 16, 20 and 23 have been amended. New claims 24-27 have been added. Support for new claim 24 can be found at, *e.g.*, [0003]. Support for new claims 25-26 can be found at original claims 11 and 12, [0035], [0088], [0107], Figure 3B, etc. Support for new claim 27 can be found at, *e.g.*, [0110] and [0132]. Support for claim amendments in claims 16 and 23 can be found at [116].

The issues outstanding in this application are as follows:

- The Abstract is objected to for language and format formalities.
- Claim 20 is objected to for a typographical error.
- Figures 2 and 10C in the Drawings are objected to as unrelated to the Specification.
- Claims 16, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.
- Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-17 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Carroll (US Pat. No. 5,330,066).
- Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Carroll.
- Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Carroll as applied above in view of Shaw (US Pat. No. 6,406,003).
- Claims 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Carroll as applied above in view of Sweeney and Sylva (US Pat. No. 823,451).

#### **I. ABSTRACT**

Applicant has amended the abstract to address the Examiner's objection.

## **II. CLAIM OBJECTION**

Applicant has corrected the typographical error in claim 20 per the Examiner's objection.

## **III. DRAWINGS**

Figures 2 and 10C in the Drawings are objected to as unrelated to the Specification. Applicant respectfully submits the Examiner is mistaken. Figure 2 is clearly a different view of the same post embodiments shown in Figure 1 plus a member element. Figure 2 corresponds to [0103] in the Specification. Similarly, Figure 10C is an embodiment of a fence brace corner as described at [0138] in the Specification. Applicant requests Examiner withdraw the objection.

## **IV. 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.**

Applicant has amended Claims 16, 20 and 23 to correct the self-evident grammatical errors.

## **V. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11, 13-17 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Carroll (US Pat. No. 5,330,066). Applicant has amended rejected claims 1, 14 and 20. Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

## **VI. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

### **A. Claim 5 over Carroll**

The Examiner's rejection is founded on Carroll providing all limitations from independent claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 1 from which claim 5 depends. Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

### **B. Claims 9 and 18 over Carroll in view of Shaw**

The Examiner's rejection is founded on Carroll providing all limitations from independent claims 1 and 14. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 from which claims 9 and 18 depend, respectively. Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

C. Claims 12 and 19 over Carroll in view of Sweeny

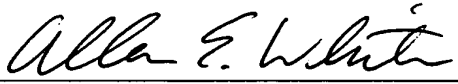
The Examiner's rejection is founded on Carroll providing all limitations from independent claims 1 and 14. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 from which claims 12 and 19 depend, respectively. Applicant requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02877US0 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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**Appendix of Previously Submitted Drawings**